

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN USIA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /040 R

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USIA:IMV-MR. RUSSEL

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STATE:EUR/CE-MR WARD

STATE:EA/PRCM-MR HART

USIA:I/SO:SWATSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 241656

EO 11652:N/A

SUBJECT - FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE TAPE

REFERENCE - STATE 231403-U (NOTAL)

1. DESPITE SERIOUS DELAYS IN DUBBING RESULTING FROM NETWORK POOL AUDIO PROBLEMS, IMV HAD MET BY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 24 AT POSTS' URGENT AND SPECIAL VTR (ENGLISH) REQUESTS FOR SHIPMENT VIA COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, SPECIAL POUCHES, INTERNATIONAL MAIL, HAND CARRIERS, AND OPEN APO SHIPMENTS. (TWENTY-EIGHT POSTS RECEIVED 61 TAPES REQUIRING SPECIAL SHIPPING AND HANDLING). HOWEVER BECAUSE SUFFICIENT VTRS WERE NOT AVAILABLE FOR EARLY FRIDAY MORNING POUCH SHIPMENTS THE NEXT AVAILABLE POUCHES ON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY WERE USED; AND WHERE NO SUCH POUCHES WERE SCHEDULED, WE ARRANGED WITH STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SPECIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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POUCHES TO CARRY TAPES.

2. ALL SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR ENGLISH, SPANISH AND FRENCH KINESCOPES WERE SHIPPED AS INSTRUCTED AND BY DEADLINES ESTABLISHED BY POSTS. ALL REGULAR POUCH DEADLINES WERE MET ON FRENCH AND SPANISH VTRS AND ON ENGLISH. FRENCH AND SPANISH KINES. IN ALL, 107 POSTS ORDERED MORE THAN 200 PRODUCTS.

3. BECAUSE OF THE NETWORK POOL PROBLEM DELAYS AND AN AVALANCHE OF LAST-MINUTE ORDERS AND SPECIAL SHIPPING REQUEST WHICH CONTINUED THROUGH THE WEEKEND, SYSTEM ALMOST BROKE DOWN ALTHOUGH IMV STAFFERS WORKED AROUND THE CLOCK FOR THREE DAYS. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE DECISIONS EARLY ON THEIR NEEDS FOR VTRS AND KINES OF THE NEXT THREE DEBATES. ON THE NEXT THREE DEBATES, LAST MINUTE REQUESTS WILL HAVE TO BE SERVICED AFTER OTHERS TO AVOID INCONVENIENCING THOSE POSTS WHICH SUBMITTED ORDERS EARLY.

4. AGENCY PLANNING RE LANGUAGE VERSIONS AND CONTINUED SPECIAL HANDLING DEPENDS STRONGLY ON POSTS COMPLYING WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS STATED REFTTEL-U, PARTICULARLY PROMPT REPORT ON DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT OF PROGRAM.
ROBINSON

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